

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2006

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Dear Administrator Johnson:

We write to inform you of our intent to provide comments in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's Strategic Plan draft Strategic Architecture.

Last June nearly 70 of our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives responded in opposition to the "Environmental Justice Strategic Plan Outline" and "Framework for Integrating Environmental Justice," otherwise known as the "Strategic Plan." We believed that, as written, the Strategic Plan failed to address the real environmental justice problems facing our nation's most polluted communities and violated Executive Order 12898 regarding Environmental Justice.

While we are pleased that Administrator Johnson reaffirmed the EPA's commitment to environmental justice in his November 4, 2005 memo to Agency officials, we continue to be concerned about the manner in which the Agency develops and implements policies and the impact these policies have on environmental justice communities. Often, the Administration chooses to ignore the impacts of environmental and public health policy on environmental justice communities. The most recent example is the White House's deletion of evidence showing a proposed rule on soot could hurt low-income populations and may have a substantial impact on the life expectancy in the United States.

Therefore we are extremely concerned about the manner in which environmental justice will be integrated into the EPA's five year strategic plan. We intend to file comments on the draft Strategic Plan architecture and to closely follow the integration of environmental justice goals into the Agency's five year strategic plan. We encourage the Administration and its Agency to work closely with us and with environmental justice communities across this country to ensure that this integration is done in a manner which will achieve real improvements for these communities.

Sincerely,



HILDA L. SOLIS
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress